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THINKS FREEDOM MAY YET COME

More Than Willing to Submit Transvaal's Claims to Arbitration.

PARIS, May 3.-An interview with Mr. Kruger appears in the Matin. The former president of the Transvaal was seen in a modest little inn at Utrecht, where he is stopping for the moment. His eyes have been very much improved by recent operations, and he can now dispense with spectacles.

Sitting in front of a table, with a Bible under his left hand, Mr. Kruger delivered himself of an important statement to which further significance was given by the presence of the Orange Free State delegate, Herr Fisch-

Mr. Kruger began by announcing that on Saturday next he proposed retiring into the country for complete rest. The little village of Hilbersum, not far from Utrecht, has been selected for his abode. Nothing has yet been decided regarding his trip to America. Mr. Kruger will undertake the journey if his strength permits, and if there is any hope of gaining advantage for the Boer cause.

Pointing to Herr Fischer, the aged president declared that the two republies were indissolubly united. "Herr Fischer," he said, "is fighting for the same cause as my heroic friend, Prestdent Steyn. The two presidents and the two commanding generals, Botha \$100. and De Wet, will share the same fate." On being questioned regarding reliance he placed on the Boer official Jeweler and Silversmith. telegrams and statements in Parliament, Mr. Kruger, half rising from his armchair, declared:

"The British government, British telegraph and the British press always try to make this much"—and he measured his little finger—"look like this much," and he extended both arms.

"I am persuaded everything the statement of two years, and unless relief is given many, many thousands must perish."

Mr. Conger will go East Monday, to be gone about two weeks. "I am persuaded everything is going well out there, precisely because our enemies continue to dissimulate and

book and the reading of General Botha's last dispatch that it was the British general who first made propos-als. Never did the Boer general refuse to listen. We do not fight except for peace. We are not conquerors, but, al-though General Botha listened to the British proposals be never uttered. British proposals, he never uttered a word of equivocation on the subject of independence. Independence is the only

to sacrifice all others. "It is for this reason our citizens forsook their farms and sacrificed their lives, and our women and children now suffer temporary servitude in the ene-

treasure we cherish, even if we have

my's camp.

"And," added the president, with still more emphasis, "if the English were not blind, if they considered their own interests well, if they were not hopelessly enslaved by error and injustice, they would recognize the independence we demand, because in the hope of safeguarding it, we shall be ready to make many concessions and sacrifices,

and, moreover, it would assure peace forever for South Africa."

The subject of arbitration being next broached, Mr. Kruger expressed his entire readiness to submit all questions to the arbitrament of an impartial tribunal, not even excepting the question of independence.

"We would sacrifice our liberty," he said, "if the verdict of arbitration decided that one or the other of the republics had done anything to forfeit it. But on that point we are at ease."

Here the Bible was invoked, Mr. Kruger reading a passage from the Psalms in which David calls upon the Lord and asks if there be any spot or blemish in him or whether he had com-

mitted any misdeed.
"But, like David," he said, "we are far from being exhausted; the Boer commandos are able to go on fighting indefinitely. We have combatants, arms and ammunition in sufficient quantities. It is useless to hope to reduce us by lassitude or extermina-

He ended by expressing thanks to Providence for the manifold complica-tions with which the British Empire is now beset at other points of the globe, which one day will compel it to release its prey.

FAMINE IN CHINA.

Minister Conger Sustains Stories of Cannibalism.

DES MOINES, Iowa, May 3.-Minister Conger yesterday received messages from a New York paper asking his cooperation in giving relief to starving millions of Northern China. His telegram in reply was:

"Christian Herald, New York: Your telegram received. The suffering of the famine-stricken in Shan Si is indescribable. Your plan of relief is the best. Put matter in hands of consuls at Shanghai and Tien-Tsin and heads of missions there. The Chinese government and people would be gratified, the demands of humanity will be answered and future good will result. I send by letter E. H. CONGER."

"Prince Ching told me only two days before I left Peking," said Minister Conger, "that these people were literally eating each other. They have eaten every blade of grass, every bit of bark-everything, in fact, that can be eaten in that

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